

STATE OF MARYLAND

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Shari T. Wilson, Secretary

BILL NO: House Bill 1508

COMMITTEE: Environmental Matters

POSITION: Support

TITLE: Environment - Coal Combustion By-Products - Disposal Sites

BILL ANALYSIS:

The proposed legislation would 1) expand the applicability of the definition of “coal combustion byproducts” (CCBs) found in §9-289 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, to all of Part VIII of Subtitle 9-2, and 2) prohibit the Department from issuing a permit to install a new refuse disposal system that would accept coal combustion by-products (CCB’s) for disposal if the proposed facility would be located in or adjacent to a Critical Area, as defined in §8-1802 of the Natural Resources Article.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: Support.

This bill would allow the current definition of “Coal combustion byproducts” to be applicable throughout the Part of the law where it is defined, which is a sensible change. The Department supports this bill as amended by the sponsor.

The Department is tasked with protecting the waters of the State and views the Critical Areas law as a vital tool the help protect the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The Critical Area Commission’s regulatory process determines whether a proposal in the Critical Area can proceed. In turn, the Department has a regulatory process to determine whether a proposal that is acceptable to the Critical Area Commission can proceed, including requirements for controls, such as liners and leachate collection systems, that are protective of the State’s citizens and resources, regardless of whether a proposed site is in the Critical Area.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,

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